

Highlights

- ✓ The Wichita Art Museum expansion is complete and the reopening was held on June 9, 2003.
- ✓ The Wichita Art Museum's goal is to serve 100,000 people annually.
- ✓ A net increase of over \$100,000 in the City annual subsidy is included in 2003 Revised budget.
- ✓ One support staff position is eliminated from the 2003 Revised budget.

The Wichita Art Museum is a major cultural center serving the state's largest city and the surrounding Great Plains region. Its purpose is to promote the study of American art and to engage the public in the enjoyment and understanding of America's artistic heritage and evolving cultural identity.

Overview

The Wichita Art Museum (WAM) is the largest art museum in Kansas and contributes to the cultural vitality of life in Wichita. Exhibits include selections from the permanent collection of more than 7,000 artworks. Along with a large collection of paintings, the Museum offers a rich selection of sculptures, works on paper, drawings, and decorative arts. The collection of American masterpieces reflects the richness and diversity of American culture from colonial times to the present and includes artworks by artists like Edward Hopper, Marry Cassatt, Winslow Homer, Thomas Eakins and many others. The Art Museum hosts visiting exhibits from across the country three to four times per year.

Museum staff works closely with volunteers to present a vigorous educational program. The public enjoys "Stories in Art" sessions based on artwork in the Museum's galleries, educational videos and gather weekly for "Gallery Talks." WAM for Kids, located in the basement of the facility, is an educational and fun center for children of all ages and their parents. Each year more than 13,000 school children benefit from classroom visits, tours of exhibits and educational materials. In addition to those services, the Museum offers rental rooms for special events; a store with unique and interesting gifts; and a research library including locally hard finding resources, auction records, and exhibition catalogues. Many volunteers contribute by providing policy leadership as board members, conducting tours, raising funds to supplement City support, and working directly with professional staff to serve the public. The Wichita Art Museum's Art Library consists of 40,000 works, including 8,000 volumes, which augments the Wichita Public Library's material collection.

Finance and Operations

The Wichita Art Museum receives an annual subsidy from the City to support operating costs. Additional funds are provided by private donations. Beside the annual subsidy, the City also



The newly expanded Wichita Art Museum is internationally recognized for collections of outstanding American Masterpieces.

provides two Building Maintenance support staff and will enhance building security by adding two exterior security cameras to the existing security system in 2004 as additional operation support. Starting in 2003, WAM receives additional annual subsidy from the City for the increasing operating expenses due to the expansion. A net increase of over \$100,000 in annual subsidy is included in this year budget. The 2003 budget also includes the elimination of one support staff.

The Museum's expansion was completed in June 2003 with the addition of 34,000 square feet. This expansion makes the Wichita Art Museum 115,000 square feet, larger than Exploration Place. With a 42 percent increase in size, there is more space to exhibit premiere works of art as well as improved areas for the conservation, preservation, and storage of art collection. The City's contribution toward the expansion was \$6 million of the total \$10.5 million project budget. Private contributions, including a contribution from the County, made up the remaining \$4.5 million in project costs.

The enhanced Wichita Art Museum features:

- A beautiful, visitor-friendly entrance.
- A 6,000 square foot Great Hall featuring an elegant work of art by internationally renowned artist, Dale Chihuly.
- An elevated restaurant with a wonderful scenic view overlooking the Arkansas River and the Museums on the River corridor.
- An enlarged space for special events.
- Double the number of parking spaces.

The previous "WAM for Kids" has been transformed into a new interactive educational gallery for children and adults. The Art Resource Center has over 1,700 items that are available for loan to Kansas's teachers for classroom use. During 1999, more than 45,000 people viewed materials from the Center. The years 2000 and 2001 experienced only a slight usage decrease with 39,000 people using materials, despite the fact that the Center was moved to an off-site location.

The Wichita Art Museum's goal for 2003 is to serve 100,000 people annually, which is a significant 55% increase from the 64,705 people that were served in 1999.



*Dale Chihuly (Am., b. 1941)
Wichita Art Museum Seaform Installation
Handblown glass, plate glass
WAM, F. Price Cossman Memorial Trust,
INTRUST Bank Trustee
©Dale Chihuly 2003*

Wichita Art Museum Budget Summary

	2002	2003	2003	2004	2005
	Actual	Adopted	Revised	Adopted	Approved
Personal Services	796,516	1,026,130	948,140	1,058,020	1,095,050
Contractual Services	395,988	369,240	351,850	224,440	186,190
Commodities	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total Fund Expenditures	1,192,504	1,395,370	1,299,990	1,282,460	1,281,240
Total full-time positions	25	25	24	24	24
Total part-time positions	2	2	2	2	2
Total FTE positions	25.75	25.75	24.75	24.75	24.75